

107. As described in Paragraph 0034, for example, the initial threshold generating unit produces a specific value that is determined for each pixel.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that an enabling disclosure has been provided for the distributing unit recited in claim 1. For the same reasons, the subject matter of claim 9 is supported by the disclosure. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The drawings were objected to, on the same basis as the 112 rejection. For the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings show the features recited in the claims.

Although not explicitly stated in the Office Action, it appears that the claims 1 and 5-9 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) on the basis of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0028468 ("Yamamoto"). This published application was filed in the name of the same inventor as the present application, i.e. Toshitsugu Yamamoto. To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C § 102(e), a reference must be "by another." Since the Yamamoto reference is by the same inventor, it is not by another, and therefore does not constitute prior art.


Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not rendered unpatentable by the Yamamoto reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been overcome. A notice of allowance is submitted to be in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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